position is concerned, for the enlarging organ, even if it broke from its mooring, might have sufficient firmness to prevent backward displacement. The irritation which might lead to miscarriage is an evil of a different character concerning which sufficient evidence has not been adduced to satisfy us that it is altogether theoretical. So of the possible displacement and irritation of the bladder, the proof is not yet sufficient that evils of this character would not occur.

Preferable to this operation, as it seems to us, assuming that it is decided to treat the uterine displacement through the medium of an abdominal section, are the operations upon the uterine ligaments. In this opinion we are at variance with the author. If the tubes and ovaries have been removed we can hardly see the necessity for any further operation, for when circum-uterine adhesions are ruptured, and the broad ligaments contracted by the formation of stumps for the adnexa, we have usually observed that such means were sufficient to bring the uterus into proper position; besides, atrophy of the organ will occur in a more or less brief period, and then the position of the uterus will, in most cases, be a matter of little importance. Of the intra-abdominal operations upon the round ligaments for the remedy of retro-deviation of the uterus, by far the most practicable and simple means seems to us to be that which was devised by Wylie. In simply drawing up and stitching a segment of each round ligament no false anatomical relations are introduced, a reasonable prospect of permanency of result is given, and the operation is very easy of accomplishment.

The author has not succeeded in convincing us of the extraordinary value of hysteropexy. It may continue to be done as many other imperfect and illogical operations continue to be done, but we are satisfied that the results will very often cause disappointment, and thus may possibly stimulate to the discovery of more perfect measures.

A. F. C.

A TREATISE ON GOUT. By SIR DYCE DUCKWORTH, M.D. Edin.; M.D. (Hon. Causâ) Royal University, Ireland; Physician to, and Lecturer on Clinical Medicine in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, etc., etc. With Frontispiece and Illustrations. 8vo., pp. 476. London: Charles Griffin & Co., 1889.

It is a noteworthy fact that by far the greater number of the contributions to the literature of gout have been written by British authors, and that, of these, a majority emanate from London. The explanation of this fact is not far to seek. There can be little doubt that London affords the largest and densest field for the observation of gout and gouty ailments, and the London hospitals fuller opportunities for the study of the morbid anatomy of gout than can be had elsewhere. These conditions enlarge experience and stimulate investigation. The result is that the medical profession of the world turns to London for light upon this subject, and does not turn in vain. But the light is by no means a flood. It glimmers at many points, and here and there is bright enough to steer by. But more is needed. The saying of James Begbie, that the history and nature of gout have yet to be written, still holds good. Facts accumulate, theory crowds upon theory, but the comprehensive generalization, large enough for all the phenomena, simple enough for an underlying pathological law, awaits formulation. This is true not only of gout, but also of the other constitutional arthropathies.

We do not enter into sympathy with the author of this noble book in the feeling which prompts him to speak apologetically of his intruding himself into the company of authors who have written upon the subject of gout. We accord him the fullest sympathy for his patient and painstaking labor; the keenest appreciation for his scholarly research and critical acumen; the highest honor as a broad-minded and faithful worker in the field of clinical medicine. He has added new facts to the general fund of knowledge, and, by an elaborate and critical analysis of the theories of gout, cleared the way for future work. Certainly the light upon the subject is, through his labors, both brighter and more extended.

The last upon the subject, the treatise before us is, to our thinking, the best. Written in the broad spirit of one who rises above the narrowness of specialism, it has place for all reasonable views, however discordant; for all well-observed facts, however difficult of inter-adjustment; yet it is well ordered, and most readable. The pages of the JOURNAL do not afford space for an extended review of this book—a task that, in the days of the quarterly, would have been a labor of love—nor is the reviewer content with brief notice of it. In these days of much writing brevity must control the pen. In medical literature the fashion of writing books about books is passing away. Perhaps it is well that it is so, but one regrets the critical review, its opportunities for elaborate analysis, for keen satire, for trenchant rebuke, for discriminating praise —in a word, for display of the critic's resources.

To content one's self with saying of a good book that it is really good, that it has been written by the light of truth, that it represents intellectual outlay and hard work, that it has in it the individuality of the author, and, finally, that it should be read by everyone interested in the subject—all this seems too little. But this we say of the treatise before us, and we say it earnestly. J. C. W.

PRACTICAL ELECTRICITY IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY. By G. A. LIEBIG, JR., Ph.D., and GEORGE H. ROHÉ, M.D. Philadelphia and London: F. A. Davis, 1890.

BEFORE critically examining this clearly printed and illustrated book, we should not fail to reflect that this is the first work covering the whole field of medical electricity that has appeared during the present electrical era. Apostoli's writings and Massey's *Electricity in the Diseases of Women* are, of course, excepted as dealing only with a special field. All other comprehensive treatises of any pretension belong to a period that antedates the dynamo, the electric light, the telephone, and the other discoveries and applications in electro-physics that have practically re-created the science; a fact that relegates them, one and all, to the position of historical curiosities. Excepting in their clinical and experimental departments, which contained much of permanent interest, the